



POLYSOMNOGRAPHY PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Regular Board Meeting

June 21, 2022

MINUTES

A committee meeting of the **Tennessee Polysomnography Professional Standards Committee** was called to order at 9:05 a.m. in the Poplar Room, Ground Floor, Metro Center Complex, 665 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, Tennessee 37243 by Penny Sprigs-Smith, Committee Chairperson.

Members Present: Mark Spiceland, RPGST
Penny Sprigs-Smith, PSGT
Charity Worrick, RPSGT
Jim Donaldson, RPSGT

Absent Members: None

Staff Present: Stacy Tarr, Executive Director
Tracy Alcock, Advisory Attorney
Candyce Wilson, Administrative Director

Approval of Minutes

Meeting minutes from the November 31, 2021, Polysomnography Professional Standards Committee were approved. Mr. Spiceland made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Donaldson seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Applicant Interviews

Bethany Foster – appeared before the Committee without legal representation. Ms. Foster successfully completed an A-Step program but no qualifying educational program. The Committee discussed being unable to approve Ms. Foster for licensure due to her not meeting the educational requirements stated in TCA 63-31-106. The A-Step program was no longer accepted as of 2012. Ms. Sprigs-Smith motioned to allow the applicant to withdraw her application. Ms. Worrick seconded the motion and it passed. Ms. Foster requested to withdraw her application.

Bayleigh Morgan - appeared before the Committee without legal representation. Ms. Morgan

successfully completed an A-Step program but no qualifying educational program. The Committee discussed being unable to approve Ms. Morgan for licensure due to her not meeting the educational requirements stated in TCA 63-31-106. The A-Step program was no longer accepted as of 2012. Ms. Sprigs-Smith motioned to allow the applicant to withdraw her application. Ms. Worrick seconded the motion and it passed. Ms. Morgan requested to withdraw her application.

Kayla Stanley - appeared before the Committee, via telephone, without legal representation. Ms. Stanley has not completed an approved educational program. She has a degree in Respiratory Therapy with a certificate in Polysomnography from an institution that is not CAAHEP accredited. Furthermore, it was not CAAHEP accredited when she graduated. Also, Ms. Stanley has successfully completed an A-Step program but no qualifying educational program. The Committee discussed being unable to approve Ms. Stanley for licensure due to her not meeting the educational requirements stated in TCA 63-31-106. The A-Step program was no longer accepted as of 2012. Ms. Stanley's Tennessee respiratory therapy license is currently expired. The applicant states she would have to retake the respiratory therapy test to be credentialed again before she could reinstate that license. She completed several A-Step modules and clinicals in order to take the BRPT test, which she passed in March 2022.

Ms. Stanley reported from 2006 – 2013 she worked at Hudson Valley Medical Center in Kingsport (previously called Welmont) at a registered sleep technician. This information is reported on her application under her work history. Ms. Alcock referenced part of the statute, which indicates that prior to 2010, any person engaged in the practice of polysomnography shall not be deemed to be in violation of this chapter...any person engaged in the practice of polysomnography as July 1, 2007, shall be eligible for licensure under this chapter without meeting educational requirements. Based on the information provided, Ms. Stanley meets the grandfather clause under TCA 63-31-106(c). Mr. Spiceland motioned to approve Ms. Stanley for licensure. Mr. Donaldson seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Ratify New and Reinstated Licensees

Mr. Donaldson made a motion to approve the new/reinstated licenses. Ms. Sprigs-Smith seconded the motion and it passed.

Review and discuss policy statement regarding Polysomnographic Technician Extensions

The Committee reviewed the drafted revisions to the policy. Mr. Spiceland motioned to approve the revised policy. Mr. Donaldson seconded the motion and it passed.

Report from the Office of Investigations

Mr. Roger Knowlton, Intake coordinator with the Office of Investigations, reported there has been one (1) complaint received in their office, this year, for practicing on a lapsed license.

Financial Report

Mr. Matthew McSpadden appeared before the Committee to present the midyear 2022 financial report. Currently, the Committee is in a deficit of \$6,081 and their office is projecting the Committee will finish in the red for the close of the fiscal year. Their office does not make any recommendations for fee changes currently. However, if the Committee continues to operate in the red then they will be presented with a fee change proposal. The Committee received the report, and no action was taken.

Manager's Report

Ms. Tarr reported that between December 1, 2021, and May 31, 2022, eleven (11) full licensure, twenty-one (21) technologists/technicians, eight (8) trainee/student and two (2) reinstatement applications were received in the administrative office.

Total New Licenses Issued

Technologist (Full)	15
Technicians (Temporary)	19
Trainee	0
Number of Renewals	100
Online Renewals	83
Percentage of renewals on-line	83%

The total number of active licensees as of May 31, 2022, are 488. The total number of temporary permits as of May 21, 2022 is 22.

The Committee expressed an interest in the number of active licensees for their profession and whether or not there is a decline in active licensees. Ms. Tarr will pull the numbers for the last five (5) years and present the information at their next meeting.

Discussion on Continuing Education

In response to feedback obtained from audited licensees, Ms. Wilson requested some input from the Committee regarding the BRPT CE cycle and the availability of courses during the pandemic. The Committee reports BRPT requires an individual to complete fifty (50) hours over a period of (5) years, thus one could complete all of these hours in one (1) year. This is contrast to the Committee's rules which require ten (10) hours per year. The members expressed there have been plenty of CE courses available online since the start of the pandemic. They also stated there are a lot of free courses available as well.

Office of General Counsel

Ms. Alcock reminded the Committee of the Conflict of Interest Policy. Ms. Alcock stated that there are currently three (3) open cases. Ms. Alcock stated that the contested case closed the

third case. There are currently four (4) licensees being monitored for discipline.

Agreed Citations

Pamela Hannah, RPSGT – Mr. Spiceland recused. Ms. Hannah was found non-compliant in her continuing education audit by nine (9) hours and received an agreed citation for the non-compliance. Mr. Donaldson motioned to accept the agreed citation. Ms. Sprigs-Smith seconded the motion it passed.

Kimberly White, RPSGT – Ms. White was found non-compliant in her continuing education audit by four and three fourths (4.75) hours and received an agreed citation for the non-compliance. Mr. Donaldson motioned to accept the agreed citation. Mr. Spiceland seconded the motion it passed.

The Committee will meet again on August 23, 2022 and they will conduct a rulemaking hearing.

The Committee discussed the recent sunset hearing and expressed an interest in learning the outcome of that meeting. Ms. Alcock and Ms. Tarr confirmed a legislative liaison will be present at their August 2022 meeting and will be able to offer information about whether or not the Committee has been extended.

There being no other Committee business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:02 a.m.